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EXAMINER

NGUYEN BA, PAUL H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,134

Applicant(s)

MOYERS, DAVID

Examiner

Paul Nguyen-Ba

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/24/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8, and 9 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayyadurai, U.S. Patent No. 6,718,368, in view of Rice et al. ("Rice"), U.S. Patent No. 6,411,947, in further view of Posner, U.S. Patent Publication Application No. 2003/0208434, in further view of Microsoft ® Outlook 2000 ("Outlook"), © 1994-1999 Microsoft Corp.

Independent Claim 1, 8, and 9

Ayyadurai teaches a method, system, and computer program for processing an inbound transaction document sent by a customer to a user in an electronic commerce system (see Abstract), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with customers (Figs. 1 and 2 - (5) → E-mail Viewer and Editor);

routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user (Fig. 3 - (3); col. 5, lines 44-48 → E-mail Routing System);

automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document (Fig. 3 - (91); col. 6, lines 15-24 *et seq.* → based upon the determining parsing tags, the automatic reply generator retrieves from a library of phrases the candidate reply documents that are appropriate).

parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document (Fig. 3 - (30) and Fig. 4; col. 5, lines 60-67 *et seq.* → filter and modeler performs language analysis and characterization of the content of the inbound document);

generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document (Fig. 3 - (33), (34); Fig. 4; col. 5, lines 31-33; col. 7, lines 32-58); and *transmitting the reply document* (col. 7, lines 59-61; Fig. 3 - (39)).

Ayyadurai does not specifically teach automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents “without performing a language analysis of a content of the inbound

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document.” However, Rice teaches an automatic message interpretation and routing system wherein an inbound document (i.e. E-mail message) is passed to the pre-processing block containing the rule base (see col. 5 lines 54-56). When certain condition(s) are satisfied (or true) the rule “fires” and will cause a specific action to occur without performing a language analysis of the content (see col. 6 lines 4-6 and 29-32). The resulting action may include an “automatic” reply (e.g. body contains no text, etc.).

Since Ayyadurai and Rice are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Rice would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ayyadurai. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Ayyadurai with the teachings of Rice to include automatically determining reply transaction documents “without performing a language analysis of a content of the inbound document” for the motivational purpose automatically determining reply transaction documents without the complexities involved in language analysis.

Ayyadurai-Rice do not specifically teach displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user.

However, Outlook teaches displaying a link to each attachment candidate document of an attachment set adjacent to a header of inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user (see screenshot) for the purpose of providing a quick, user-friendly graphical user interface for the selection of documents from a set of said documents.

Since Ayyadurai-Rice and Outlook are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Outlook would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ayyadurai-Rice. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Ayyadurai-Rice with the teachings of Outlook to include displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user for the motivational purpose of providing a quick, user-friendly graphical user interface for the selection of documents from a set of said documents.

Ayyadurai-Rice -Outlook do not specifically teach receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set and automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data.

However, Posner teaches the creation of a purchase order wherein the purchasing agent accesses a template manager module to select at least one type of purchase order from a set which is then automatically populated with information included in the RFP (pg. 4 [0050]-0056]) for the purpose of optimal workflow and collaboration capabilities in an on-line environment.

Since Ayyadurai-Rice -Outlook and Posner are from the same field of endeavor; the purposes disclosed by Posner would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ayyadurai-Rice -Outlook. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Ayyadurai-Rice -Outlook with the teachings of Posner to include receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate

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set and automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data for the motivational purpose of optimal workflow and collaboration capabilities in an on-line environment.

Claim 2

Ayyadurai teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system *determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents by performing a look-up to a database indexed with the inbound document sender and addressee and the inbound document type* (col. 5, lines 56 *et seq.* → inbound documents are stored in an ODBC interface for interaction with the “Filter and Modeler” that determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents).

Claim 3

Ayyadurai teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents by operation of a translation engine, but does not specifically teach checking the inbound documents for compliance with a standard model, sending a negative functional acknowledgement to the trading customer or rejecting the inbound document if the compliance check is negative.

However, it was commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art that EDI systems and Electronic Mail systems routinely check inbound documents for compliance with a standard model and either rejects the inbound document or notifies the sender of an error in compliance for the purpose of allowing the sender to correct the inbound document to comply with the standard model for subsequent transmittal.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include checking the inbound documents for compliance with a standard model, sending a negative functional acknowledgement to the trading customer or rejecting the inbound document if the compliance check is negative for the purpose of allowing the sender to correct the inbound document to comply with the standard model for subsequent transmittal.

Claim 4

Ayyadurai teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein *the inbound document is parsed by a translation engine of the system translating the inbound document into a pre-populated selected reply document* (Fig. 3 – (30); col. 5, lines 60-67 *et seq.*; Fig. 3 – (91); col. 6, lines 15-24 *et seq.* → “Filter and Modeler” working in conjunction with the “Automatic Reply Composer”).

Claims 6 and 7

Ayyadurai teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the *additional data is inputted to the system with use of a tool for appending data to field and for replacing automatically populated data* ((Fig. 3 – (33), (34); Fig. 4; col. 5, lines 31-33; col. 7, lines 32-58 → Reply Control Panel).

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayyadurai, U.S. Patent No. 6,718,368, in view of Kennedy et al. (“Kennedy”), U.S. Patent No. 6,651,217.

Claim 5

Ayyadurai teaches the method with respect to claim 4 as discussed above, but does not specifically teach a pre-populated HTML reply document for rendering within a browser.

However, Kennedy teaches a method for populating a plurality of fields appearing on a form such as an HTML-based form rendered on a browser (see Abstract) for the purpose of computer-implemented processing of data-entry forms, such as HTML-generated forms on Internet web pages (col. 1, lines 7-9).

Since Ayyadurai and Kennedy are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Kennedy would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ayyadurai. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Ayyadurai with the teachings of Kennedy to include a method for populating a plurality of fields appearing on a form such as an HTML-based form rendered on a browser for the purpose of computer-implemented processing of data-entry forms, such as HTML-generated forms on Internet web pages.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims filed on 5/24/2005 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The new grounds of rejection include the addition of the Rice patent, which is being relied upon for teaching the newly added limitation, "without performing a language analysis of

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a content of the inbound document.” It is the Examiner’s opinion that one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to arrive at the instant invention by combining Ayyadurai, Rice, Outlook, and Posner.


Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094. The examiner can normally be reached on 11 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB


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PRIMARY EXAMINER